

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 19, 25, 27, and 31, canceled claims 2, 21, 26, 33, and 34, and added new claim 48. Claims 1, 3-20, 22-25, 27-32, and 35-48 are pending, and claims 37-47 have been withdrawn.

Applicants note that the Examiner has not considered and notated the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 24, 2001 and August 11, 2005. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner consider these documents and annotate the PTO 1449 forms accordingly in the next Office Action.

The Examiner did not indicate that the drawings, filed April 24, 2001, have been accepted. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner consider the drawings and indicate their status in the next Office Action.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the Examiner states that the claims "are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors" (Office Action at page 3). Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 19, 25, 27, and 31 to better conform with U.S. practice. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-20, 22-25, 27-32, 35, and 36 fully meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

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paragraph. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 17, 2006

By: /David W. Hill/
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